

**To:** R9\_WTR\_MANAGERS[R9\_WTR\_MANAGERS@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Gambatese, Jason[Gambatese.Jason@epa.gov]  
**From:** Rao, Kate  
**Sent:** Wed 7/15/2015 4:05:51 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Weekly Reminder - due COB Tuesday July 14th

Hello WD Managers – I have only heard from Dave Smith and Gail. Please let me know if there are other items to include in the weekly.

Thanks. Kate

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Kate Rao  
Drinking Water Protection Section (WTR 3-2)  
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**From:** Rao, Kate  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2015 11:23 AM  
**To:** R9\_WTR\_MANAGERS  
**Cc:** Gambatese, Jason  
**Subject:** Weekly Reminder - due COB Tuesday July 14th

Hello WD Managers:

Please submit items for the weekly via EMAIL to me by **COB Tuesday July 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Please be sure to include any drought related activities and speaking engagements your office may be participating in over the next two weeks. In addition, include relevant dates for the items submitted, along with POCs.

I have pasted below last week's weekly as a point of reference.

Thanks. Kate

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## **WEEKLY REPORT**

**Region 9**

**Environmental Protection Agency**

**Week of July 10, 2015**

**Water Division**

### **Highlight of Past Week**

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**DWSRF ULO:** In June, we dropped from having the highest percentage of unliquidated obligations in the Drinking Water SRF program to the third highest. This is the first time since HQ began tracking ULOs we have not had the highest ULO percentage on a regional basis. The drop is primarily due to the continuing progress made by California, which is on track to meet the deadline in their corrective action plan to get their ULO below \$160 million by June 30, 2016. (Eberhardt, 2-3420)

**404 Objection Letter (Kapalama Harbor):** In response to their public notice, we sent comments to the Corps of Engineers Honolulu District offering mitigation recommendations for proposed impacts to corals for planned harbor improvements that may eliminate as many as 8 acres of marine habitat. This would represent the largest marine fill in years for the District, and Hawaii Department of Transportation contends that no compensatory mitigation should be required. (Wiltse, 1-2752)

**CA Fracking Study:** On 7/9, CA released the “Independent Scientific Assessment of Well Stimulation in CA” required by SB4. Significant recommendations include limiting the use of hazardous or poorly understood chemicals and evaluate and report the chemical content of disposal water associated with well stimulation. There is also a section which addresses the evaluation of wells which were permitted into protected aquifers and acknowledges that some of the disposal fluids likely contained chemicals from well stimulation. Finally, the Report is critical of the Federal regulation of fracturing and acid stimulation in offshore wells which are beyond State jurisdiction. (Montgomery, 2-3438)

### **Drought Related**

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**Tribal Drought Response:** On 7/8, we convened an “Emergency Support” funding meeting in Sacramento in conjunction with the CA Area Indian Health Service (IHS) Offices. We met with federal and state partners (including USGS, Cal OES, CA DWR, IHS, USACE, HUD, BIA, SWRCB) to coordinate potential funding resources available to at-risk tribes who may be seeking emergency water supplies due to drought impacts on their water supply. (Vanegas, 2-3433; Sallach 2-3503)

### **Significant Items for Next Week**

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**CA UIC:** On 7/15, the State of CA will submit a number of key deliverables under the plan for returning the UIC program to compliance. The primary deliverables include the State’s analysis of the 11 formations which were historically treated as exempt, a plan and timeline for closure of wells which will not receive an exemption, and a plan for comprehensive program improvements including addressing the EPA audit findings from 2011. July 15 was also a “soft” target date for the State to provide any State approved Aquifer Exemption (AE) packages for projects permitted into protected aquifers with freshwater (<3,000 mg/L TDS). Meeting this deadline would allow EPA adequate time to review the packages before the October 15 deadline for “shutting-in” wells into these formations. Despite early notification and multiple industry workshops, operators have not submitted timely applications to the State. (Montgomery, 2-3438)

### **Press Stories, Significant Policy, Regulatory, or Legal Actions (2-3 weeks out)**

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### **Grant Announcements**

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**Wetland Program Development Grants Selected:** Concluding our competitive review of 27 proposals, we notified 14 recipients this week of CWA 104(b)(3) Wetlands grants totaling \$3.1M over two years to build state and tribal programs. Selectees span each of R9's states, and include 5 tribes and American Samoa EPA. Among the efforts funded are the Association of Bay Area Governments' proposal to ensure state Baylands policies are climate-ready; building upon the [CA EcoAtlas](#) platform to publicly track wetlands projects across the state; and developing watershed prioritization protocols in HI. (Jones, 2-3470)

### **Legislative Engagement**

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### **Travel, Training, Public/National Meetings, and Speaking Engagements**

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### **30-60 Day Outlook**

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### **Other Information**

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Acting Division Director's Schedule: I will be in the office all week except for Thursday afternoon. Kristin Gullatt will act while I am out of the office.

**Internal to Region 9**

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**Confidential Information**

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